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What One Farmer Girl Did.

(Continued from Page 7.)

manently decorative because of their artistic value.

One fine picture and a few good books were to be purchased each year, and the utmost care was to be used in selection. The curtains and windows were raised, admitting fresh air and the odor of flowers. Some of the old-fashioned furniture which had been stored in the attic was brought forth, put into good condition, and made to lend a richness to the furnishings which many might envy.

The books were picked up about the house and placed on shelves; there was a cozy corner added and a window seat made. The room had the appearance of being in use. The easy chairs, the books and papers always ready, and the good light gave an air of homelike comfort which made the long evenings very delightful.

Now and then something more was done in the kitchen. A big armchair was placed in one corner of the room near a window, and the good mother was surprised to find herself dropping into it occasionally while the daughter washed the dishes; or perhaps the daughter read aloud while the mother worked.

A high wooden stool which could stand under the kitchen sink was always ready to sit on when one was engaged in wiping dishes or preparing vegetables.

One of the most helpful improvements consisted of a window-box for provisions. How often had the mother gone to the cellar for eggs, butter, and many things which had to be kept in a cool place! The window-box was a saving of time and strength; yet it consisted of nothing but a soap-box, with holes bored for ventilation. It fitted into the lower sash of the dining room window on the outside.

When the weather was cool one had but to raise the window and place the provisions in the box, and they were near at hand whenever they were needed.

There was an unused fireplace in the sitting room which had been covered with boards and papered. A

means of comfort and genuine cheerfulness which city people are very desirous of securing was thus obscured.

The farm afforded plenty of fine hickory wood for fuel, that crackled when it burned and sent out fantastic figures of flame.

When this generous fire was started on the first cool evening, and there were only these three at this fireside party, the father turned the hickory log, sending the sparks up the chimney and a glorious light into the room, the mother turned the apples on the hearth, and together they talked and read until the older ones went off to bed satisfied and proud of the fine specimen of womanhood whose common sense had brought into a cheerless house the grace and art which made of the old farmhouse a real home.—Mrs. Martha Van Rensselaer, in The Youth's Companion.

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